

**Lanesboro Public Utilities**

**Council Chambers**

**12:00 p.m., October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Member(s) Present: Evenson, O'Connor & Schuck**

**Absent:**

**Visitors: Jerod Wagner, Eric Bunge, Jon Wilfford, Jim Peterson and Bobbie Vickerman**

**REGULAR MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Evenson. The agenda was approved with a motion by O'Connor, second by Schuck, motion carried. The minutes of the Regular Utilities meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>, were approved with a motion by O'Connor, second by Schuck, motion carried.

**PERSONS WITH BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION:**

Eric Bunge and Jon Wilfford came before the Commission with concerns over the water and sewer base charges for apartments. Eric made suggestions to the Commission to change how water and sewer are charged out. Bunge gave an example of a lodging facility like the Cottage House which uses a lot of water and yet does not have to pay additional fees for the rooms they have, yet at the Coffee Street Commons he has to pay an additional \$25.00 base rate. Vickerman noted to the Council that the apartments should not be charged \$25.00, but they should be charged \$22.00, stating that since there is not an extra meter they should not be charged for the \$3 water meter fee, she noted that this was completely her fault and that the office would credit back the \$3 for the number of months it was charged to them. Bunge noted that the best way to charge for water and sewer is based on usage, since those that use more will pay more, which seems fair. Vickerman stated that by 2013, the water utility will be required by the state to have conservation tiered rates in place and it is a good time to start looking at this option. Water drainage was also discussed, however Peterson pointed out that we do not charge for storm water on our utility bills and that the storm sewer system is an area that is covered by the City. Bunge stated that he felt that there should be charged for storm water. The Commission directed Peterson, Wagner and Vickerman to start researching the water consumption requirements and to look into the conservation rates of other communities. Vickerman was asked to give notice to Bunge and Wilfford on the plan to look into conservation rates, since they had already left.

**HOUSEKEEPING:**

**Paying of the Bills:** O'Connor made a motion that due to medical reasons, the Public Utilities meeting was pushed back and that the Commission has reviewed the bills that were paid by Vickerman with consultation of Peterson, noting that the bills need to be paid timely and efficient manner, that the Commission agrees with all payments made by the office on behalf of the Commission for the month of October, second Schuck, motion carried.

**Past Due Accounts:** Vickerman stated that she has been in contact with two account holders that have built up a past due balance and have signed agreements for payments to be made according to cold weather rules.

**UMMPA Updates:** Wagner reported that he and Vickerman attended the last meeting and items such as green power purchasing, smart meters and general operation of UMMPA was discussed. Vickerman noted that Wagner has been appointed to the Executive Committee and Steering Committee for UMMPA. Wagner stated that there are various meetings coming up, conference calls and that some important decisions will be made in the near future. He also stated that he and Vickerman are working on the green power issue for Lanesboro as far as green tags and selling excess green power.

**Dam/Hydro:** Peterson noted that he is running the hydro as much as he possibly can. Vickerman noted that she still has not heard back on the dam, but has a representative from Tim Walz's office working with FEMA for an answer.

**Safety Program:** Vickerman state that she presented a request to the Council to approve a quarterly safety program through MMUA for \$3,400 and the Council approved it. Vickerman noted that safety money has already been budgeted for since she and Wagner were going to manage the safety program. O'Connor made a motion to support the Council's approval to implement a quarterly safety program through MMUA at \$3,400, second Schuck, motion carried.

**Upcoming Training in St. Cloud:** Vickerman noted that the handout is for some MMUA training in St. Cloud. She stated that it would be informative training if anyone could attend.

**Miscellaneous:** No miscellaneous items were discussed.

**ADJOURN:**

The meeting stood adjourned at 1:14 p.m. on a motion by O'Connor, second by Schuck, motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Bobbie Vickerman  
City Administrator/Clerk